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A TRUE AND PARTICULAR  
ACCOUNT  
OF

A Man who came to Life again,

IN THE

CLOSET of a SURGEON

After he had been

PUBLICLY EXECUTED.

How he affrighted the SURGEON, who  
afterwards effected

HIS ESCAPE.



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## True and Particular Account, &c.

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**A** Professor of Anatomy, who resided in Bury, Suffolk, once procured, for dissection, the bodies of two criminals that had been executed there. When the bodies arrived at his house, where the dissecting room was, he was compelled to put them into a closet that opened into his own room, having by some means mislaid the the key of the dissecting room.



The evening came, and, according to custom, he proceeded to resume his literary labours before he retired to rest.

He continued at his studies till near midnight, when, all the family being fast asleep, he heard a rumbling noise in his closet; thinking that by some mistake the cat had been shut up in the closet with the dead bodies, he arose, and taking the candle, went to see what had occasioned the noise; but what was his astonishment, or rather panic, on perceiving that the sack which contained the two bodies was rent through the middle, and one of the dead men made his escape.

The doors and windows were well secured, and he thought it impossible the body could have been stolen. Upon casting his eyes round the closet, he perceived the dead man seated in one corner, staring him full in the face.

The professor stood for some time motionless; the man had still his eyes fixed on him; he wished to evade looking at the dead man, but which ever way he turned the dead man seemed resolved to stare him out of countenance.

or The professor then retired, step by step, with his eyes still fixed upon the object of his alarm, and holding the candle in his hand, until he reached the door, the dead man instantly started up and followed him. A figure so hideous, naked, and in motion, the lateness of the hour, and the deep silence that prevailed, concurred to overwhelm him with confusion; he let fall the only candle which he had burning, and all was darkness; he made his escape to his bed-chamber, and threw himself on his bed; thither, however, he was pursued, and he soon felt the dead man embracing his legs, and loudly sobbing.

The professor bawled out, "Leave me! leave me!" which relieved him from the grasp of the dead man, who now in his turn exclaimed, "Ah! good executioner, good executioner, have mercy upon me!"

The professor soon perceived the cause of what had happened, and resumed his fortitude; he informed the re-animated sufferer who he really was, and made a motion, as if he intended to call up some of the family, "You wish to destroy me," exclaimed the criminal, "if you call any one, my adventure will become public, and



I shall be taken and executed a second time in the name of humanity I implore you to save my life."

The professor struck a light, decorated his guest with an old night-gown, and having made him take off a cordial, requested to know what crime he had brought him to the gallows.

The poor wretch informed him that he had enlisted as a soldier, but having no great attachment to the profession, he had determined to desert; that he had unfortunately entrusted his secret to a kind of crimp, a fellow of no principle, who recommended him to a woman, in whose house he was to remain concealed, and after informed his officers of his retreat, which so exasperated him that he drew his bayonet and run him through the body.

The professor was extremely perplexed how to save the poor man; it was impossible to retain him in his own house and keep the matter a secret; and to turn him out of doors was to expose him to certain destruction. He resolved to conduct him out of the place, in order that he might get into a foreign country; but it was necessary to pass the watch of the town, which was

strictly guarded. To accomplish this point he dressed the man in some of his own clothes, covered him with a cloak, and at a hearty hour, set out for the country, as his servant, behind him.

On arriving the last watch, and being known, he said, in a hurried tone, that he had been sent for, to visit a sick person, who was dying.

He was permitted to pass, and, having got into the open fields, the deserter threw himself at the feet of his deliverer, to whom he swore eternal gratitude; and after receiving some pecuniary assistance, departed, offering up prayers for his lucky and unexpected escape, and at intervals petitioning the Saviour of mankind to shower down blessings on the head of the astonished professor, who indeed stood motionless for a short time.

Twelve years after, the professor having occasion to go to Amsterdam, was accosted on the 'Change, by a man well dressed and of the best appearance, and who, he had been informed, was one of the first merchants in Amsterdam.



This man is neither more nor less than the deserter, but entirely out of the professor's recollection ; Fortune it would appear had smiled on him since his residence in Holland, as if she had intended to recompence him for what he had suffered in his juvenile years from mankind ; he had risen rapidly from a common soldier to one of the first merchants in that opulent city of Amsterdam, and was glad that he had now the opportunity of repaying his former benefactor.

The merchant, in a polite tone, enquired if he was not a professor of medicine, from Bury, in Suffolk, and on being answered by the professor in the affirmative, he requested, in an earnest manner, his company to dinner, at his house, but a little distance from the 'Change. The professor accepted the invitation with the greatest pleasure, especially as he was so much surprised at the enquiries of a stranger.

Having reached the merchant's house, he was shewn into an elegant apartment, where he saw the merchant's wife, a most beautiful woman, and two fine healthy children, but he could not suppress his astonishment at meeting with so cordial a reception from a family to whom he thought himself an entire stranger.

During the dinner he kept his eyes fixed on the merchant and his wife alternately ; but, as he thought, he had never seen him.

After dinner the merchant taking him into his counting-room, said, " You do not recollect me ?"— " Not at all"— " But I recollect you, and never shall your features be effaced from my remembrance. You are my benefactor. I am the person who came to life in your closet, and to whom you paid so much attention. On parting from you I hired a boat at South-End, in Essex, and came to Holland, I wrote

a good hand, was tolerable expert, and my figure rather interesting, I soon obtained a situation as a merchant's clerk. My good conduct and zeal for my master's interest, procured me his confidence, and at the same time his daughter's love, who is now, as you see, my amiable partner, and mother to these two children.

"On his retiring from business, I succeeded him; but as I owe all my happiness to you, henceforth look upon my house, my fortune, and myself at your disposal."

Those that possess the smallest share of sensibility, can easily figure to themselves the feelings of the professor at this time.

F I N I S.

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